THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Sir, the news report refers to the new computer system in the Delhi Customs House in the Air Cargo Terminal in Delhi. The computerisation is being introduced in stages and the processing of export documents pertaining to drawback shipping bills started from 1.11.96. It is learnt that there was a slight slow down in processing during the changeover in the first week but the system has since stablished.

(c) Export promotion measures are continously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes based on interaction with industry, trade and other promotional institutions.

Financial position of Bharat Refractories Ltd. and Burns Standard Ltd.

1760. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Refractories Limited and Burns Standard Company Limited, the two public sector undertakings producing refractory bricks are running at a profit;

(b) if so, their profit for the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Both Bharat Refractories Limited and Burn Standard Company Limited manufacture refractory bricks. Both companies are incurring losses.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) Obsolete plant and machinery, low off-take of refractories due to change in demand pattern, under-utilization of capacity, shortage of power/coal, shortage of working capital etc. are the reasons for the losses.

Formulation of a National Wage Policy

1761. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: SHRI PRAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering formulation of a National Wage Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There is no proposal before the Government to formulate the National Wage Policy;

(b) Wages in the organised sector are determined through negotiations and settlements. Wherever necessary, the Government also constitutes Wage Boards, in certain sectors, for fixation and revision of wages. In the unorganised sector, wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Minimum Wages Act, both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. The Act provides for the periodic revision of minimum rates of wages.

Exploration and exploitation of zinc and lead resources in the country

1762. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the identified zinc and lead resources in the country;

(b) the total installed capacity in the organised sector for production of zinc and lead at present;

(c) the production of zinc and lead during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) in the matter of exploration and exploitation of zinc, lead and other base and precious metals during the 8th Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Total recoverable reserves of Lead-Zinc Ores in the country Stands at 1,86,316,000 Tonnes as on 1.4.1993.

(b) The total installed capacity in the organised sector for production of primary Zinc is 1,79,000 TPA and for primary Lead is 81,800 TPA.

(c) The total production of primary Zinc and Lead in the organised sector during the last three years is indicated below:—

(Units in Tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Zinc	143962	148424	141374
Lead	35179	44993	40311

(d) and (e) The major projects taken up by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) for exploration/exploitation of Zinc, Lead and other base and precious metals during the VIIIth Plan period are as follows:—

(i) Expansion of Rampura-Agucha mine and beneficiation plant in Rajasthan from 3000 TPD to 4500 TPD.

(ii) Exploration activity at Jagpura gold prospect in Rajasthan.

(iii) Signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with M/s. BHP Minerals, Australia and M/s. Niugini Mining Limited (NML), Australia for exploration and/or exploitation of base and precious metals. The proposal with M/s. BHP Minerals has been approved by the Government.

Financial assistance for construction of godowns for revamped PDS in Gujarat

1763. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) number of godowns of upto 2000 MT capacity which have so far been constructed in the RPDS areas of Gujarat State with Central financial assistance, for storing essential commodities meant for PDS in such areas with district-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for increasing the number of such godowns in the State and request for increasing Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) State Government has reported that the following godowns have been constructed in RPDS areas in Gujarat State with Central Financial Assistance for storing essential commodities:

No.	Taluka	District	Storage capacity in M.T.
1994-95			
1.	Vav	Banaskantha	1000
2.	Nandod	Bharuch	1000
3.	Dediapada	Bharuch	1080
4.	Khamba	Amreli	1000
1995-96			
1.	Ahwa	Dang	250
2.	Valia	Bharuch	250
3.	Dayapar	Kutch	500
4.	Lakhtar	Surendranagar	250
5.	Zalod	Panchamahal	250